



# Engineering in Europe

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District

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## Colonel Pelkey assumes command of Europe District

Colonel Michael R. Pelkey assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District July 30th, following an assignment as the Deputy Director, J4 for Headquarters, United States Forces, Japan.

"I am proud to now become a member of the great Europe District," said Pelkey. Speaking at the change of command ceremony, Pelkey added, "I look forward to working with all of you to improve our facilities and quality of life, and help Europe ensure peace, stability and reconstruction in the Balkans."

Colonel Pelkey attended the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers in 1976. He also holds a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Louisiana State University.

Colonel Pelkey's assignments include: Platoon Leader and Executive Officer, C Company, 27th Engineer Battalion; Project Engineer, Engineer District Savannah, Ft. Bragg, N.C.; Training Officer, 18th Engineer Brigade,



**North Atlantic Division Commander Maj. Gen. Jerry Sinn, (pictured left) passes the flag from Europe District's outgoing Commander, Col. Mike Barry (pictured holding the flag), to incoming Commander Col. Michael Pelkey (pictured center). Deputy District Engineer Pat Biliter is pictured right. The change of command ceremony took place July 31 on Wiesbaden Air Base. (Europe District Photo)**

Germany; Commander, D Company, 94th Engineer Battalion, Germany; Contract Technical Manager, Defense Nuclear Agency, Virginia; Operations Officer, 547th Engineer Battalion, Germany; Operations Officer, 23rd Engineer Battalion, South West Asia and Germany; Deputy, Assistant Chief of Staff, Engineer, SETAF, Italy; Commander, 577th Engineer Battalion and Director,

DPTM, Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. Colonel Pelkey is also a graduate of the Marine Corps War College.

His military awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (three oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal, the Army

*Continued on Page 2*

## Change of Command From Page 1

Achievement Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal (two oak leaf clusters), the Overseas Service Ribbon (four oak leaf clusters), the Saudi Arabia Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal (Bronze Service Star 3), the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Master Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

"This has been a tremendously rewarding three years for Denise and I — working with you to support our great American soldiers, sailors, and airmen who serve from Belgium to the Balkans, from Germany to Turkey, and from the Ukraine to Kazakhstan," said outgoing Commander Col. James M. Barry.

"Never in the U.S. military's 58 years in Europe has the engineer team been busier. Europe District is proud to be representing the Corps of Engineers as your forward-deployed, direct support district, and DoD's contract construction agent in the European Command area of operations," he said.

Col. Barry's new assignment is Command Engineer for the U.S. Southern Command in Miami, Florida.

"Colonel Mike Barry, in three years, has taken a good district and made it better," said Maj. Gen. Jerry Sinn, Commander of the Corps' North Atlantic Division.

Also speaking at the change of command ceremony, Sinn said. "This district can be characterized in words like agility, fundamentals, teamwork and discipline. This is a district that is respected, responsive, and reliable. Its effectiveness has been



**Colonel Michael R. Pelkey assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District on July 30th. His previous assignment was the Deputy Director, J4 for Headquarters, United States Forces, Japan.**

revolutionized. Value to the supported units and customers has been enhanced through high quality project and program management.

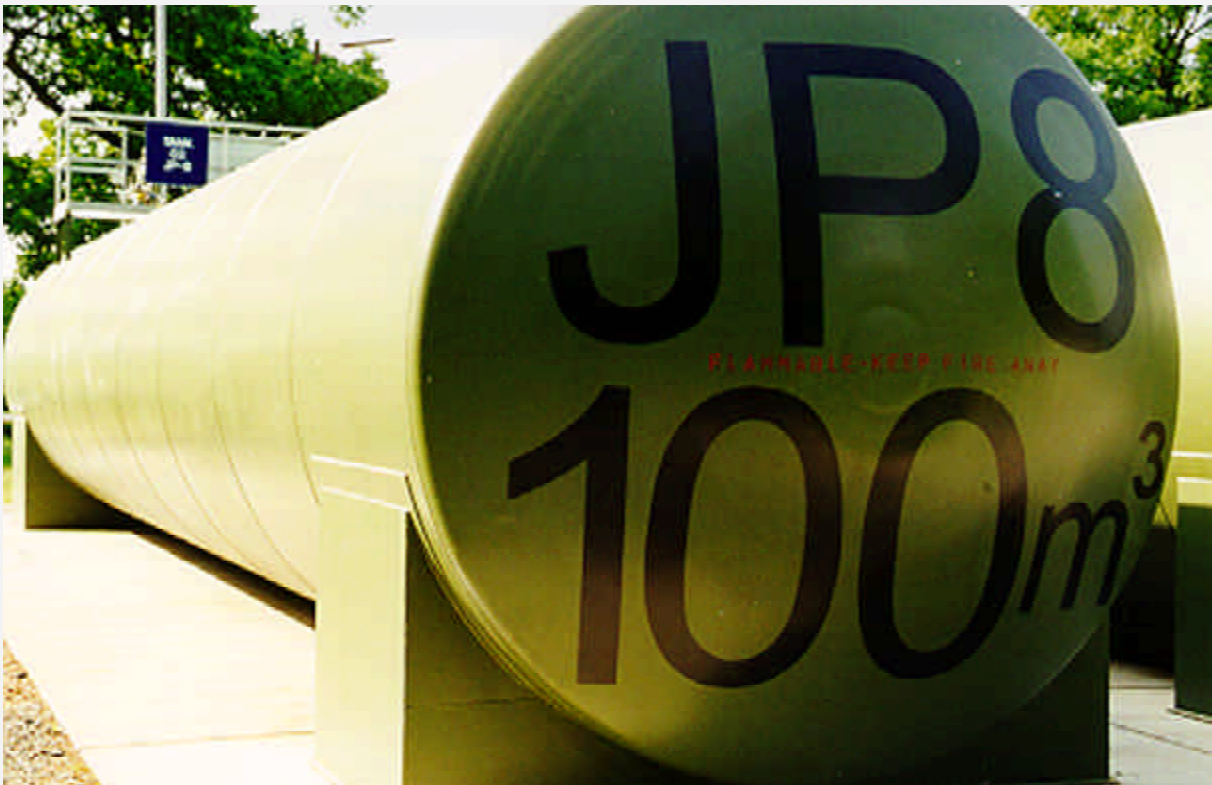
Sinn added that construction awards to the industry have gone from \$250 million in 1996 to over \$500 million in 1999. "Productivity per employee is now the highest in the Corps and first rate collocated regional managers are now a reality," he said. "In addition, this district was awarded the Installation Support District of the Year for 1998 and is postured to repeat in 1999."

## *Engineering in Europe*

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*Renovations to the new Fliegerhorst Tank Farm Filling Station were recently completed, increasing the storage capacity of JP-8 fuel to 600,000 liters.*



*The old Fliegerhorst Tank Farm Filling Station (pictured left) was closed in 1995 for environmental cleanup and refurbishing.*



# New dormitory opens on Ramstein Air Base for 86th Medical Group

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**Story and Photos by Marnah Woken**  
**Europe District Public Affairs**

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New dormitories recently constructed on Ramstein Air Base have improved the quality of life for single, enlisted personnel of the 86th Medical Group.

The new dormitories house 76 apartments and were constructed under the Department of Defense 1+1 standard. The layout of each unit includes a kitchen and a bathroom between two sleeping rooms, separate wash sinks and built-in closets, offering more privacy and a better quality of life for single Airman.

"This dormitory represents a new chapter in our quest to provide the best quality of life we can for our Airman," said Colonel Whitehurst, Commander of the 86th Medical Group. "Because of the job that we send them out to do, it's important that young people today in

the U.S. Air Force have the quality of life and the standards of living that they're entitled to."

The dormitories also include a day room, study room, common kitchen, and office area. Exterior work on the project included the planting of trees and bushes, and the addition of 47 parking spaces.

"I like the privacy," said Airman Troy Urda. "I've lived with a roommate for the past year so this is going to be a lot better."

"I shared a bathroom and kitchen in my old dormitory, so the privacy will be really nice," said Airman First Class Christina Finkey. "I also really like the walk-in closets and the new carpeting. This is so much nicer than where I was living before where I had to share a bathroom."

Speaking at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new dormitories, Colonel Glenn Haggstrom, U.S. Air Forces Europe Civil Engineer Directorate said, "What we're seeing here today started as a vision back in



*Airman Troy Urda as one of the first to move into the new 86th Medical Group dormitories on Ramstein Air Base. The new dorms offer more privacy, improving the overall quality of life for single, enlisted personnel.*

1996. We bought out the last of the Air Force's central latrine dormitories in Europe. By the year 2001, none of our enlisted folks should be living in a dormitory with central latrine facilities."

Construction on the Ramstein dorm project was completed in 13 months. The contracting work was a joint venture between Theisinger and Probst and d&b Bau, under the direction of the Staatsbaumt Kaiserslautern.

Individuals who worked on the project include Europe District Project Engineer Wilhelm Kiefer, Staatsbaumt Project Engineer Hans Zimmermann, Headquarters USAFE Program Manager Jim Frishkorn, and BCE Partner Sgt. Jim Radford.



*Airman First Class Christina Finkey of the 86th Medical Group settles in to her new dormitory room on Ramstein Air Base.*



*The new dorms include a central day room, study room, and common kitchen. Private kitchens (shown upper left) are situated between the private living/sleeping areas.*



# Build-to-lease Family Housing construction underway in Italy

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**Story and Photos by Torrie McAllister**  
**Europe District Public Affairs**

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The Corps of Engineers is monitoring design and construction of 530 build-to-lease family housing units for the Air Force at Aviano, Italy.

The build up of Aviano Air Base has caused a severe housing shortage for families supporting the 31<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing. The U.S Air Force Europe has signed agreements with six private investors to build leased housing at 11 different sites which the Air Force will lease for 10 years.

The Air Force's request for proposal covered basic design requirements such as minimum square footage in individual rooms, carport sizes, and playground requirements. The first of these new housing areas is under construction. Work on the remainder will begin as developers complete their building permits and get designs approved. Aviano hopes to begin moving families into apartments beginning in November.

"These are private developments built to Italian standards because they must be marketable to Italian renters should the Americans leave," said Doug Baird, Europe District Project Manager. "The Air Force hired the Corps to help ensure the finished apartments are also adapted to the needs of American families. For example, American fire and life safety standards require additional smoke detectors and stair rail spacing. These features are very important to Air Force families.

"One of the Corps roles is to identify U.S. code compliance problems and other uniquely U.S. issues. We make recommendations and help the Air Force



*The Corps of Engineers is monitoring design and construction of 530 build-to-lease family housing units for the Air Force at Aviano, Italy.*

negotiate with the contractor to incorporate those the Air Force decides are most important," Baird said.

The Air Force earmarked one percent of the fullterm lease cost to cover U.S. special needs—items like ground fault interrupters for bathrooms and additional outlets that the Italians consider "nice to have. The Corps' Italy Program Manager Ray Flock developed the monitoring initiative in collaboration with USAFE's Aviano Program Manager Dave Mitchell. The pace of base operations and construction at Aviano is currently so frenetic that the 31<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing Base Civil Engineer wanted technical assistance for this program.

Flock and Baird have been assisted by Mechanical Engineer Mahmut Telli, Architect Technician Gertrude Beuth, and Electrical Engineer Bill Wadsworth.



*The U.S Air Force Europe has signed agreements with six private investors to build leased housing at 11 different sites in Aviano, Italy which the Air Force will lease for 10 years.*

# Tank Farm Filling Station reopens on Fliegerhorst Kaserne in Hanau

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Story and Photos  
by Marnah Woken  
Europe District  
Public Affairs

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The Tank Farm Filling Station on Fliegerhorst Kaserne in Hanau reopened May 1 following a series of renovations and environmental cleanups.

Work on the project included the excavation and disposal of approximately 10,000 tons of contaminated soil to meet Host Nation regulations, and reconstruction of the existing Tank Farm to modernize its storage and delivery systems — increasing its JP-8 fuel storage capacity to 600,000 liters.

The facility dispenses an average of approximately 40-to-50 thousand gallons of fuel per day. During a deployment, that amount jumps to approximately 20,000 per day, according to C.L. Hughes, Manager of the facility.

“Now we’re able to provide better service to our customers,” he said. “We’re able to work safely and service the soldiers safely. Now we have more fuel storage capacity and we have an environmentally sound facility.”

Upgrades to the facility also include a new hardstand for fueling, and a new entrance and exit. New pumping devices have also been installed which pump approximately 1,000 liters per minute.

“The Corps of Engineers supports the 104th Area Support Group (ASG) in the execution of its environmental program here in Europe,” said Sam Zakhem, Europe District’s 104th ASG Collocated Program Manager.



**Specialist Shawn Lopez, Petroleum Supply Specialist for the 1st Armored Division uses the new hardstand at the Fliegerhorst Tank Farm Filling Station.**

“The 104th ASG and Europe District have a deep commitment to improving the environment and combining that environmental stewardship with support to the U.S. Army mission here in Europe.”

Speaking at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the facility, 104th ASG Commander Col. Imholte stated, “When the Corps is involved, the end product is to the level. The Army and the Department of Defense are reinvesting in installations here in Europe. This facility is good news.”

Europe District employees involved with the project include Project Engineer Dieter Schwaenen, Project Engineer George Van Cook.

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**DOD OFFICIAL INTRATHEATER MAIL**

**Official Business**

## **Europe District receives Safety Performance Award and Commander's Logistics Excellence Award**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District recently received the Government Award for Safe Performance for Fiscal Year 1998. The district maintained an outstanding safety record during that time, with no recorded government employee fatalities and no contractor employee fatalities. Formal training was provided in the use of both PHAs and AHAs.

The District achieved compliance with the Corps of Engineers Annual Accident Prevention Plan which included the intense use of Position and Activity Hazard Analyses. A standardized Position Hazard Analyses was also developed and implemented within the District. This ensured that each field office had an approved template and a standardized the program. Specific guidance on the use of the Activity Hazard Analysis was developed, and included an electronic version for use by the district and contractors. Dave Stanton is Europe District's Safety Officer.

Europe District also recently received the Commander's Logistics Excellence Award for Fiscal Year 1998. The award was received for excellence in supply management, maintenance, transportation, facilities, and special program which included support to personnel deployed to support contingency operations in Bosnia and Hungary.

Members of Europe District's Logistics Management Office include Chief Karen McKenna, Property Book Officer Clinton Watson, Housing Manager Rito Rodriguez, Supply Officer Bill Williams, Travel Officer Clinton Bostick.